

**Washington, DC** - Congressman Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) was honored today as the Iowa Head Start Association's 2010 State Champion for demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment to improving the lives of children and families. Braley was honored at the Region VII Head Start Association Annual Leadership Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Braley was unable to receive the award in person because of votes in Washington, DC.

"Improving the education and welfare of our Iowa's youth is one of my top legislative priorities," Braley said. "We all know that the most important factor in determining a child's success later in life is early access to quality education. I am thankful to everyone in Head Start who shares my commitment to investing in early childhood education and I would especially like to thank the women and men who lead Iowa's Head Start programs every day. They are the true champions and their work cannot be honored sufficiently."